

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13
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USMISSION NATO
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0175

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR: PROPOSAL TO UNILATERALLY TABLE US FIGURES

REF: USNATO 1970 (DTG 051800Z APR 77)

1. WE WELCOME THE FACT THE ASYG JUNG HAS TAKEN AN INITIATIVE DESIGNED TO HELP RESOLVE THE CURRENT DIS-AGREEMENT IN NATO OVER THE TABLING OF NATIONAL FIGURES AND HOPE THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO ON MBFR ISSUES. HOWEVER, WE HAVE STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE WISDOM OF THE SPECIFIC STEP HE HAS PROPOSED, I.E., THAT THE WEST SHOULD UNILATERALLY TABLE FIGURES FOR US FORCES IN THE AREA.

2. THIS STEP CONFLICTS WITH THE US NATIONAL
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POSITION, REFLECTED IN NATO GUIDANCE TO THE AD HOC GROUP, THAT US DATA SHOULD BE TABLED ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS. MOREOVER, IT IS ILLUSORY TO BELIEVE THAT SUCH A STEP PROVIDES A VIABLE SOLUTION TO PRESENT DIFFICULTIES. QUITE THE CONTRARY, IT WOULD ENTAIL SIGNIFICANT RISKS OF EXACERBATING THEM.

A. GIVEN THE EAST'S CLEARLY-ENUNCIATED POSITION OF DEMANDING ALL NATIONAL TOTALS ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS, THIS STEP ALMOST CERTAINLY WOULD NOT RESULT IN A POSITIVE EASTERN REACTION. THAT IS, THE EAST WOULD NOT TABLE SOVIET DATA IN RESPONSE.

B. FOR THE WEST TO ADVANCE THIS PROPOSAL AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF PREVIOUS EAST-WEST DISCUSSION ON THE TOPIC OF NATIONAL TOTALS WOULD RAISE QUESTIONS IN THE EAST'S MIND REGARDING WESTERN BEHAVIOR AND MOTIVES. THE EAST MAY CONCLUDE THAT THE WEST IS NOW SEEKING TO CHALLENGE THE EAST OR IS SEEKING A CONFRONTATION OVER AN ISSUE WHICH TO DATE HAS BEEN HANDLED ON A REASONABLY CONFIDENTIAL, BUSINESSLIKE BASIS.

C. IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE WESTERN STEP WOULD LEAK TO THE PRESS, TOGETHER WITH THE FACT THAT THE EAST HAS REFUSED TO RECIPROCATATE.

D. THIS, IN TURN, WOULD CAUSE THE EAST TO REVEAL PUBLICLY THAT IT HAS PROPOSED TABLING ALL NATIONAL TOTALS. NEITHER THIS EASTERN PROPOSAL NOR THE FACT THAT THE WEST HAS REJECTED IT HAS YET LEAKED TO THE PRESS. THE STAGE WOULD THEN BE SET FOR EXTENSIVE PUBLIC CONTROVERSY. AS WE HAVE POINTED OUT, WE BELIEVE THAT THE WEST WOULD BE IN A WEAK PUBLIC POSITION IN THIS EVENT.

E. A WESTERN UNILATERAL ACTION SO
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CLEARLY TIED TO THE WEST'S REDUCTION APPROACH IN CONJUNCTION WITH WESTERN REFUSAL TO TABLE NATIONAL TOTALS WOULD GIVE SUBSTANCE TO THE THEORY, DETRIMENTAL TO WESTERN INTERESTS, THAT THE WEST IS ACTING AS THOUGH THE TABLING OF NATIONAL TOTALS IS DIRECTLY AND INEXTRICABLY LINKED TO THE OVERALL REDUCTION PROGRAMS OF BOTH SIDES, WHATEVER MAY BE CONTAINED IN ANY DISCLAIMER.

F. CONSIDERATION OF THIS STEP WOULD DIVERT THE ALLIES FROM THE MAIN ISSUE, THE NEED TO AGREE ON TABLING ALL WESTERN NATIONAL TOTALS, WHICH IS THE ONLY WAY TO GET THE EAST TO TABLE ITS NATIONAL TOTALS. RESOR

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